NEBRASKA FOOD CODE,
Revised April, 2003

5-202.13 Backflow Prevention, Air Gap.*

An air gap between the water supply inlet and the flood level rim of the plumbing fixture, equipment, or non-food equipment shall be at least twice the diameter of the water supply inlet and may not be less than 25 mm (1 inch).

5-202.14 Backflow Prevention Device, Design Standard.

A backflow or backsiphonage prevention device installed on a water supply system shall meet American Society of Sanitary Engineers (A.S.S.E.) standards for construction, installation, maintenance, inspection, and testing for that specific application and type of device.

5-203.14 Backflow Prevention Device, When Required.*

A plumbing system shall be installed to preclude backflow of a solid, liquid, or gas contaminant into the water supply system at each point of use at the food establishment, including on a hose bibb if a hose is attached or on a hose bibb if a hose is not attached and backflow prevention is required by law, by:

(A) Providing an air gap as specified under § 5-202.13; or

(B) Installing an approved backflow prevention device as specified under § 5-202.14.

81-2,272.29 Backflow Prevention Device, Carbonator.*

A carbonating device or a beverage dispenser with an internal carbonator intended to be connected to a water supply system under pressure in a food establishment shall have an air gap as specified in the Nebraska Pure Food Act or a backflow prevention device as specified in the act and downstream from any copper in the water supply line.

5-204.12 Backflow Prevention Device, Location.

A backflow prevention device shall be located so that it may be serviced and maintained.

5-205.13 Scheduling Inspection and Service for a Water System Device.

A device such as a water treatment device or backflow preventer shall be scheduled for inspection and service, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and as necessary to prevent device failure based on local water conditions, and records demonstrating inspection and service shall be maintained by the person in charge.

5-205.12 Prohibiting a Cross Connection.*

(A) Except as specified in 9 CFR 308.3(d) for firefighting, a person may not create a cross connection by connecting a pipe or conduit between the drinking water system and a nondrinking water system or a water system of unknown quality.

(B) The piping of a nondrinking water system shall be durably identified so that it is readily distinguishable from piping that carries drinking water

Backflow Control

Backflow or backsiphonage can occur in a plumbing system when a drop occurs in the water supply pressure. In order to prevent contaminants from flowing back into the building's piping and the municipal water supply, an air gap or an approved backflow prevention device shall be properly installed.

Air gaps are commonly used between a faucet and the flood level of a sink. This air gap shall be twice the diameter of the supply line, but not less than an inch.

The backflow protection must be upstream of any potential hazard between the potable water system and a source of contamination, i.e., all threaded water outlets, janitorial sinks, sprayers, dishwashers, coffee makers, espresso machines, etc.

Atmospheric vacuum breakers are required on mop sink valves and dish machine chemical supply water lines.

The most common installations for reduced pressure zone backflow prevention devices in food facilities are on water supplies to beverage carbonators, water-cooled compressors of ice machines, high pressure pumps or sprayers, and lines under constant pressure, such as trigger sprayers. These devices must be accessible and should be inspected annually by a licensed plumber.